

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DODE-00 HA-05 FDRE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 HEW-06 EB-08 IO-14 SCS-06 CA-01 USIE-00

CG-00 DOTE-00 PM-05 INR-10 PA-02 SSO-00 NSAE-00

COME-00 TRSE-00 /077 W

-----127538 061904Z /46

O 061826Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL TIJUANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2313

AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TIJUANA 0136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL MX

SUBJ: BAJA CALIFORNIA FLOODS AND DISASTER RELIEF

REF: MEXICO 03754

1. SUMMARY: GOM WILL NOT ASK U.S. FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH IT IS LOOKING TO BUY SOME ITEMS INCLUDING TENTS. CONGEN RECOMMENDS USG ASSISTANCE TO BAJA IN LOCATING THESE ITEMS.

2. GOVERNOR ROBERTO DE LA MADRID TOLD US MARCH 6 GOM WILL NOT RPT NOT REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. DE LA MADRID HAS AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE 1,000 TENTS, HOWEVER, AND IS ALSO IN MARKET FOR MATRESSES, COMMUNITY BATHS AND TOILETS, AND PLASTIC WATER CONTAINERS (THE LATTER TO COPE WITH POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF POTABLE WATER IN ENSENADA). THESE ITEMS WANTED BOTH FOR IMMEDIATE SHELTER NEEDS AND OVER LONGER TERM UNTIL PERMANENT HOUSING CAN BE CONSTRUCTED TO REMOVE SETTLERS PERMANENTLY FROM LOW-LYING AREAS.

3. GOV DE LA MADRID TOLD US HE WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING ABOVE-NAMED ITEMS, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY/ UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT GIVE ANY ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE.

4. GOV DE LA MADRID REPORTED THAT MARCH 4 AFTERNOON RAIN CONSIDERABLY AGGRAVATED SITUATION HERE, FORCING EVACUATION OF ADDITIONAL 1,500 - 1,800 PERSONS IN TIJUANA AND SIMILAR NUMBER IN ENSENADA. ONLY OVERLAND ROADS OPEN IN BAJA ARE TIJUANA-ENSENADA TOLL ROAD AND ONE LANE BETWEEN TIJUANA AND

MEXICALI. WORK WILL BEGIN REOPEN ROADS AS SOON AS WATER
DOWN. WEATHER FORECAST FOR NEXT 48 HOURS IS CLEARING SKIES.

5. DE LA MADRID'S PRESENT ESTIMATE OF MAJOR DAMAGE THROUGH-
OUT BAJA IS 550 MILLION PESOS. RELOCATION COSTS ARE ESTIMAT-
ED AT AN ADDITIONAL 80 MILLION PESOS. IN NEXT WEEKS AND
UNTIL ROAD DAMAGE REPAIRED THERE WILL ALSO BE SERIOUS LOSS
IN TOURIST REVENUES.

6. DE LA MADRID TOLD US PRESIDENT LOPEZ-PORTILLO HIGHLY
PLEASED WITH QUICK ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY USCG FROM CALIFORNIA,
WHICH HAS PROVIDED THREE HELICOPTERS AND ONE I-130 FOR
RELIEF EFFORTS.
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Message Attributes

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